

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair is trying to pass this off as a news event when there is no real news involved in the documentary. It is completely one-sided and does not meet the laws stating equal time for each candidate. They are violating this law but calling it a news cast to get away with it. The top executives have all donated the maximum allowed to Republican's and Bush and 95% of the political donations were to Republicans. This is a clear case of an independent media company trying to influencing the outcome of the election in their favor.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.